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Written statement* submitted by the Association for Defending Victims of Terrorism, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[15 February 2016]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Necessity of Establishing a Structure to Defend the Rights of Victims of Terrorism in Human Rights Council

According to official statistics of bodies in different countries, the number of victims of terrorism is increasing catastrophically on different levels in such a way that each year it increases drastically, threatening the health and future of human beings.

As terrorism continues to spread, it violates many principles and norms of international law and basic human rights, including the right to life and security, and it necessitates more than ever before the formation of an international consensus to fight against the heinous phenomenon.

According to official statistics of international bodies, in 2014, thirty two thousand six hundred and fifty people were victimized in the world which unfortunately indicates a growth of 80 percent of the number of victims of terrorism compared to 2013. Recent terrorist acts in Central Europe show that the geographical spread of terrorism is rapidly expanding from Syria and Iraq to other parts of the globe. Therefore, international determination and global cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism is urgent more than ever before.

Thus,
Expressing deep regret concerning the violation of fundamental human rights in the armed conflict areas and other parts of the world,
Considering the UN Human Rights Council's efforts to promote human rights and protection of the victims of terrorism,
Considering the importance and necessity of paying attention to the situation of victims, the injured and the displaced caused by terrorism based on human rights and humanitarian law,
Acknowledging and appreciating the positive approach of the United Nations Human Rights Council in the fight against terrorism and the promotion and protection of human rights

Association for Defending Victims of Terrorism states the following in order to achieve this important goal all over the world:

- In the fifth Article of Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power, adopted in 40/34 resolution on 29 November 1985, formation of such structure has been emphasized: "All appropriate measures should be taken to sponsor collaborative action-research on ways in which victimization can be reduced and victims aided, and to promote information exchanges on the most effective means of so doing; c) To render direct aid to requesting Governments designed to help them curtail victimization and alleviate the plight of victims; d) To develop ways and means of providing recourse for victims where national channels may be insufficient".
- Victims and sufferers of terrorist acts in the armed conflict areas are not the subject of any of the conventions on human rights and supportive structures of these bodies which necessitates the formation of the above-mentioned structure. Therefore, according to the authority and the role of Human Rights Council in preventing human rights violation, we call on UN Human Rights Council to consider formation of such structure.